

Website Details Health Care Options for New Yorkers Under Recently Passed Legislation

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today applauded the launch of HealthCare.gov - a comprehensive resource that will help New Yorkers determine which health care option is best for them. The website was created by the health insurance reform legislation Hinchey voted for in March. It hosts a wealth of clear, jargon-free information, including a consumer-friendly tool that will help individuals, families and small businesses navigate the often complicated process of shopping for health insurance.

"In the past, the process of shopping for health insurance and finding affordable care was an incredibly painstaking process," said Hinchey. "With the launch of HealthCare.gov, New Yorkers will have access to a comprehensive list of private and public health care solutions so that they can choose the option that is best for them. Whether you're a new college graduate, a family who recently lost insurance or someone with a pre-existing condition – this site has a list of insurance options available for you along with many helpful tips and resources for healthy living."

The core of the new website is the powerful insurance options finder. After consumers input a few pieces of basic background information – such as state, age range, and current insurance status – the tool will generate a list of both private and public health insurance options. HealthCare.gov will list the details of insurance plans offered, and starting in October will also include pricing information to further simplify the health insurance selection process.

"One of the main problems with our health insurance system in the past has been a lack of transparency and competition," said Hinchey. "Consumers were forced to sift through piles of paperwork, work through brokers and other intermediaries and answer intrusive questionnaires only to find out that they either didn't qualify for insurance or that the options available were out of their price range. Those days will soon be gone and this website is one of the many reasons why. It will empower consumers by showing them the available options, the costs of those options and how to select the option that works the best for them."

The insurance options finder has a database of over 2 billion scenarios, with listings from more than 1,000 insurance carriers and over 5,500 insurance products. The website also hosts over 500 new pages of content, including a health care reform implementation timeline and state-by-state information for individuals with pre-existing conditions.

In March, Hinchey voted to pass the most significant piece of health care reform legislation since the creation of Medicare in 1965. He was also present for the president's signing of the bill into law at the White House. The measure improves coverage for 415,000 residents in the congressman's district who already have insurance. It provides tax credits to make health care more affordable for another 158,000 families and 15,100 small businesses, and extends coverage to 47,000 uninsured residents. It has already ended insurance denials to children with pre-existing conditions and is helping 10,900 residents with pre-existing conditions find insurance. In addition, 68,000 young adults are now able to obtain coverage through their parents' insurance plans until their 26th birthdays.